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**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
July 29, 1996.

NOTE: S. 1899, approved July 29, was assigned Public Law No. 104-167.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt**

*July 30, 1996*

**President Clinton.** Good morning.

**Q.** Mr. President, what do you think of the Israeli plan now to build new highways and bridges into the occupied territories, the West Bank and Golan Heights, consolidating their control?

**President Clinton.** The President just walked in the door, and we're going to start talking, and I think that I'd rather wait to answer those questions until the press conference. We're going to have a press conference after lunch, and we'll—I'll be glad to answer your questions.

#### **Welfare Reform**

**Q.** [*Inaudible*—the welfare reform bill that's coming out of conference, is it something you can sign, Mr. President?

**President Clinton.** I don't know. I don't know what's going to happen in the conference yet. They're working on the conference now, and I'm going to wait and see what happens, what comes out.

**Q.** I think you're going to sign it because you have used all the language of the opponents: failed system, broken system.

**President Clinton.** We have actually done something about it. Keep in mind that 75 percent of the people on welfare today are under welfare-to-work experiments. There are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare today than there were the day I took office. Child support is up 40 percent. There are a lot of things in the bill I'd like to sign. I like the child care money. I like the increased child support enforcement. I like the fact that we get out of the waiver business on a State-by-State basis. But I don't want to see harm

come to the children of this country. And so we'll just wait and see.

**Q.** Mr. President, the Democrats really want to know, they want some guidance from you about whether you'd accept this from this conference.

**President Clinton.** Well, we're talking to them all. But I don't want to make comments about a bill I haven't seen yet. Let's see what comes out of the conference. We're working with them, and obviously I hope I can sign a bill. We're working hard, but it depends on what that bill does.

**Vice President Gore.** Did you get Helen's [Helen Thomas, United Press International] comments down? Did you get those down? [*Laughter*] You'll have to go with her analysis. She's going from questions to making comments now that she's got a microphone.

**Ms. Thomas.** It's my day in the sun. Where's my crew? [*Laughter*] Anonymity is better.

**The President.** Oh, I don't know. I think you lost your anonymity a long time ago, Helen.

**Ms. Thomas.** Hell. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.*]

#### **Middle East Peace Process**

**Q.** Mr. President Clinton, when will see the photo number six of a Middle East treaty signing hang on the wall of the Oval Office, probably the Syrian track?

**The President.** The next one out there? I hope it won't be too long. We are—the President just arrived, and we're looking forward to a conversation. And of course, we're going to have a press conference afterward, and we'll try to answer all your questions.

#### **Meeting With President Mubarak**

**Q.** What is the agenda of the meeting today, Mr. President?

**The President.** Excuse me?

**Q.** What is the agenda of the meeting?

**President Clinton.** We're going to discuss a whole range of things, our bilateral relationship, issues in the Middle East. I've been very impressed with the leadership that President Mubarak has continued to show in the last several months. And I'm looking forward to listening, asking him a lot of ques-

tions and listening, and then having a chance to share some ideas. And then we'll have the press conference and do our best to answer your questions.

### **Middle East Peace Process**

**Q.** I have only one question, please, President Clinton. Will the United States try to convince Prime Minister Netanyahu to respect agreements that the Israel Government—not the Labor Party, but the Israel Government—have signed and redeploy the Israel troops from Hebron. The second point, also, to negotiate about Jerusalem and also to try to stop sealing off every time, and every now and then, the Gaza Strip.

**President Clinton.** Well, let me say, first of all, he reaffirmed to me when he was here, and he has met with President Mubarak as well, that he would honor the Oslo accords in every way. So I think we have to give him a chance to do that and work on that assumption. I believe that the—I think that the government is bound to honor commitments that it has made, and I believe that it will and I certainly believe it should. And so we'll just have to—we'll see. But we're going to discuss that today, and again, we'll be able to answer more questions at the press conference, after we have our meeting.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:15 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **The President's News Conference With President Mubarak**

*July 30, 1996*

**President Clinton.** I am delighted to welcome my friend President Mubarak and his delegation from Egypt back to the White House to reaffirm the close partnership between the United States and Egypt. Under the wise and courageous leadership of President Mubarak, Egypt has been a key partner with the United States in working to build both regional security and global peace. I commend him for his vision and his dedica-

tion. Nowhere has that been more crucial than in Egypt's own region.

The peace between Israel and Egypt is the bedrock upon which all other progress has been made. President Mubarak and I discussed our joint efforts to bring about a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. The United States will continue to do all we can with our friends in Israel and in the Arab nations to preserve what we have achieved for peace and to move forward.

The President and I agreed on the need for continued progress on the Palestinian track, as we both had discussed in our recent and quite productive meetings with Prime Minister Netanyahu. We share a determination to help find a path to peace between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.

We also spoke at length about terrorism, a threat that both our nations know all too well. As the host of the unprecedented Summit of the Peacemakers at Sharm al-Sheikh, President Mubarak helped show the world the deep desire for peace and security that prevails throughout the Middle East.

We know, too, that we have to fight terrorism on three fronts: first, through closer cooperation with our friends and allies abroad; second, here at home, by giving law enforcement the tools they need, the most powerful counterterrorism tools available; and third, in our airports and on our airplanes, by increasing security. This will be a long, hard struggle. But when we work together against terrorism, abroad, at home, and in all the places that link us, we can obtain results.

At last month's G-7 summit in Lyon, I proposed a series of concrete measures to intensify our fight against terror and ask our allies to do more. Today in Paris, Attorney General Reno and other top officials from the G-7 nations and Russia followed through on our call for action. These 8 nations announced 25 specific areas of intensified cooperation, including working together to better protect mass transportation through strict international standards for airport bomb detection, screening, and security; cooperation on vehicle and explosive identifications; and standardization of passenger and cargo manifests.

We will adopt laws controlling the manufacture and export of explosives and firearms